

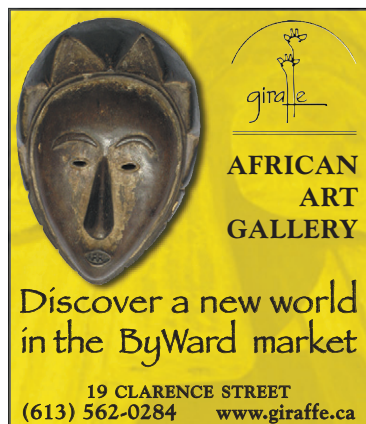


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## Man accused in high-rise killings appears in court

**COURT** A 20-year-old man accused of shooting two men in a Prince of Wales high-rise apartment last week made a brief appearance in the downtown courthouse yesterday morning.

Matthew Kalli did not say anything during his appearance in courtroom No. 5. He just stood in the prisoner's box wearing an oversized white-checked dress shirt buttoned to the neck, with his hands tucked into the pockets of his jeans.

On Sunday night, Kalli turned himself in to police in connection with the killings of Warsame Okie, 25, and Hayder Al-Ebadi, 18, inside the lobby of 1435 Prince of Wales Dr.

It was the city's eighth and ninth murders of the year.

Word that Kalli had turned himself in was happy news for Al-Ebadi's friends, said longtime friend Nawar Majed.

Since the murder, Al-Ebadi's mother has been in a state of shock, said Majed, who visited her on Monday.

"She still can't believe what happened. She would sit there and pray, 'Oh God help, oh God forgive him.' It's really sad," Majed said.

Police have not yet received results of autopsies that were performed on the two victims on Monday.

Kalli is scheduled to appear in court again by video on Dec. 17.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Canada pg 4



## Ted Rogers dead at 75

Ice author **Dominator**



Ottawa Senators first-line winger Dany Heatley signs a copy of his new book, *Dominant Dany Heatley*, for fans at the Chateau Laurier last night.

## Political sides take to rallies

The turmoil on Parliament Hill will spill out onto the streets of Ottawa later this week with a series of rallies planned for the nation's capital for both the Conservatives and a coalition.

At noon tomorrow, a pro-Liberal/NDP coalition rally is scheduled for Parliament Hill.

Make Parliament Work organizing committee member Bertrand Begin said he and other coalition support-

ers no longer trust the government.

"Basically, we feel that the government is not equipped to face this economic crisis," he said.

"The labour movement in this country feels it is time for the coalition to step in and take over."

Meanwhile, a rival rally will be taking place at Rideau Hall, where mostly Conservative supporters will let Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean

know that they do not wish to see the government change less than two months after an election.

A much larger pro-Conservative rally is scheduled for Saturday at noon on Parliament Hill.

According to co-organizer Stephen Taylor, 12,100 people have already registered online for rallies taking place coast-to-coast on the weekend.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

# Nation watching Gov. Gen.

**Having spent the past week in a flurry of handshakes and speeches, she is coming home to hole herself up with books and advisers to grapple with a crisis that places the fate of the government in her hands.**

"It must be lonely in a way," constitutional scholar Paul Thomas of the University of Manitoba said of the enormous task facing Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean as she returns to Ottawa today after cutting short her four-country European tour.

"I'm sure she has trusted confidants in her office, but at the end of the day, she has to sit down and ask herself what's the right thing to do in the national interest."

Her country will be watching — and judging — her answer to that question, and even history may never make up its mind whether she got it right.

It appears increasingly likely Jean will face a request from Prime Minister Stephen Harper to prorogue, or shut down, the current parliamentary session before opposition parties get the chance to kick him out next week in the hopes of taking power with a coalition government.

She has the power to refuse him — a power that constitutional scholars and a former governor general say must be exercised with extreme caution — but nonetheless remains important as she fulfils her duties to maintain stability.

Before Jean makes up her

### Decision maker

- Michaëlle Jean became Canada's 27th Governor General in September 2005. Jean was born in Port au Prince, Haiti. She immigrated to Canada with her family in 1968, fleeing the dictatorial regime of the time. She is fluent in five languages: French, English, Italian, Spanish and Creole.

- An award-winning journalist, Jean worked for eight years with Quebec shelters for battered women, while actively aiding in the establishment of a network of emergency shelters throughout Quebec and elsewhere in Canada.

- She is married to filmmaker Jean-Daniel Lafond and the couple has an eight-year-old daughter, Marie-Éden.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

mind, she will consult with a number of discreet advisers — both an in-house legal team and any number of academics and lawyers and others from a variety of fields and political leanings — who will help the former broadcast journalist wade through a Constitution that is often ambiguous or even silent on the most complicated issues.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Canadian reaction to Ottawa drama ranges from glee to outrage at metronews.ca/Canada

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**National Capital Commission AGM tonight**

The National Capital Commission is inviting area residents to attend its eighth annual general meeting at 6:30 p.m. today. The meeting, which is preceded by the public board of directors meeting, is held in the Beethoven Room of the Hilton Lac-Leamy in Gatineau. **NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION**

# Ottawa



## Drive according to road conditions

Ottawa police responded to 27 collisions — seven of which resulted in minor injuries — yesterday morning. Police are reminding drivers to adjust their driving to the weather and road conditions by slowing down, giving themselves plenty of room to stop when approaching intersections, and leaving plenty of distance between their vehicle and the one in front of them. **NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION**

### Man dead after hit-and-run

**DEATH** Police are seeking the driver of a large white SUV-style vehicle believed to be involved in a hit-and-run collision after a 57-year-old city man was killed on Merivale Road on Monday.

The collision occurred between 7:45 p.m. and 8:05 p.m. on the south end of Merivale Road near the intersection of Cleopatra Drive, said Ottawa Police Const. Al Boucher yesterday.

The vehicle was last seen travelling north on Merivale.

The man, who has not been identified, was walking south at the time of the collision.

He was walking home from Merivale Bowling Lanes, Boucher said.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

## 3-blaze day leaves \$2M in damages

TRACEY TONG  
tracey.tong@metronews.ca



**In less than four hours, three fires destroyed a business, a house and caused severe damage to a high-rise apartment in Ottawa early yesterday morning.**

The fires caused approximately \$2 million in damages and kept firefighters running all over the city starting late Monday night.

At 11:05 p.m., firefighters were called to a blaze

at 727 Transmission, a commercial garage located at 1732 Woodward Dr.

Sixty-five firefighters with 24 pieces of equipment fought the three-alarm blaze, which caused \$800,000 in damages to the building and another \$500,000 to contents.

A firefighter was injured at the scene when a piece of debris punctured his boot, said District Chief Monty Malloy.

While this fire was being fought, firefighters got a call at 1:43 a.m. to a three-wing high-rise apartment at 320 Croydon Ave.

"The fire was third-alarm by virtue of the time of day, the occupancy of the building and the fact that it's a high-rise building," Malloy said.

The fire, which was attended by 53 firefighters with 18 trucks, caused \$100,000 in damages to the structure and \$50,000 to the contents.

Firefighters got a third call at 2:50 a.m. to

a fire at a two-storey, single-family home in Orleans.

The fire at 1629 Sunview Dr. started in the basement and spread throughout the house, causing \$150,000 in damages to the structure and \$80,000 to the contents, but no injuries.

All fires are under investigation, but there is "no evidence of any being suspicious" at this time, Malloy said.

**There is "no evidence of any being suspicious."**  
Monty Malloy

### Tree Holiday spirit in the Gallery



The National Gallery of Canada lit up an immense Christmas tree adorned with decorations and 10,000 lights in its Great Hall last night. The 40-year-old pine tree will be on view until Jan 4.

### Fundraising record set for United Way

**DONATIONS** They didn't meet their goal of \$31 million, but spirits were nonetheless high at the close of United Way/Centraide Ottawa's 2008 community campaign last night.

The campaign brought in a record-breaking \$29,921,000, exceeding last year's total of \$29.3 million.

"We're certainly inches away from the magical \$30 million threshold," said 2008 campaign chairman Sal Iacono. "We still have a ways to go, but typically, donations keep coming in December and January."

More than 500 United Way/Centraide supporters, volunteers and donors attended the celebration at the Hampton Inn and Conference Centre. The campaign was launched Sept 24.

Iacono said he was optimistic that donations will continue to trickle in this month through January.

In challenging times, the community came through again, he said.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

metronews.ca  
What's online today.

**Video** The life, legacy and accomplishments of Ted Rogers at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

**Video** Canadians react to Ottawa drama with both glee and outrage at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)



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Daily Keno: 8, 13, 15, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 51, 53, 62, 65, 69  
These results are not official.

## Downtown office building evacuated after 'disoriented' man enters

A downtown office building was evacuated yesterday morning after a trench coat-clad man holding a Qur'an wandered into an office and began acting erratically.

At 8:56 a.m., a man who witnesses described as

"disoriented" walked into the Vinci Park office on the 13th floor of the National Building at 130 Slater St. and began walking up and down the halls, shouting and reading from the Qur'an.

"He was holding a

Qur'an and the other hand was in his trench-coat pocket," said Ottawa Police Staff Sgt. Kal Ghabban.

"He was reciting verses from the Qur'an in Arabic and asking for the Libyan embassy.

"It caused a lot of people anxiety and uneasy feelings about what was going on because they didn't know him or what his motivation was."

Police took the man out of the building in handcuffs and leg shackles.

"There was a struggle there," said Ghabban.

Ghabban said no threats were made to the embassy and no weapons were found.

The man is being held in custody pending charges.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

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RCMP are again looking to use cruise ships to house security officers during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, even though their first attempt at such a plan fell apart amid a cost dispute. **REUTERS**

# Canada

## Greens May be in

The Green Party may have a role to play in a proposed coalition government aimed at replacing the minority Conservatives, leader Elizabeth May said yesterday.

**REUTERS**

## Media mogul Ted Rogers dead at 75

**TORONTO** Ted Rogers, who headed a North American broadcasting, publishing and telecoms conglomerate, has died, Rogers Communications said yesterday. He was 75.

Rogers, who was hospitalized in late October for an existing heart condition, died at his home in Toronto.

"Though Ted was relentless in business and building this company over the years, he was also very much a family man," said Phil Lind, Rogers' vice-chairman, who worked with the founder for almost 40 years. **REUTERS**



Ted Rogers



Video: The life and legacy of Ted Rogers at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

## Tories declare PR war

Harper may prorogue parliament to block coalition

**Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper launched an all-out public relations war on his united opposition yesterday.**

Fighting for his political life, Harper has given the nod to pep rallies, an advertising blitz and speeches by ministers to sway public opinion in his favour.

Harper faces almost certain defeat if an opposition

### Uncomfortable with Dion

An Angus Reid poll released yesterday found that 64 per cent of Canadians

would not be comfortable with Stéphane Dion becoming prime minister.

motion of non-confidence goes ahead as scheduled on Monday. The Tories are considering a move to ask Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, who returns to Ottawa today af-

ter cutting short a European state visit, to discontinue or "prorogue" the 40th Parliament as early as tomorrow to avoid the vote.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

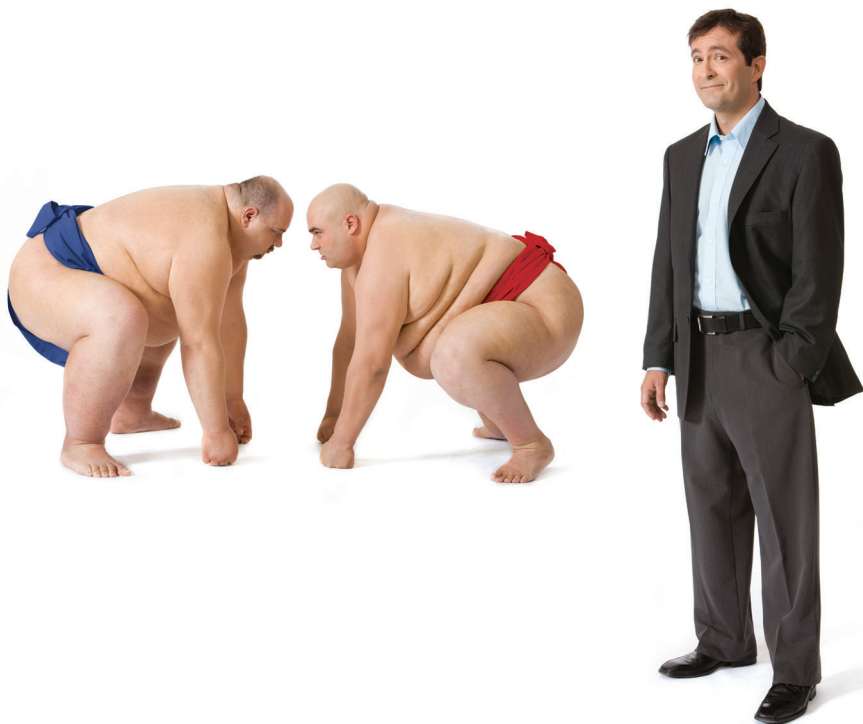
### News in brief

**BAILOUT** The need to help the auto industry and preserve 400,000 Ontario jobs has Premier Dalton McGuinty calling for a resolution to the political crisis in Ottawa. McGuinty has been working closely with Stephen Harper on an aid package for the automakers.

**ECONOMY** Finance Minister Dwight Duncan announced "modest" restraint measures to signal the province is tightening its belt in difficult economic times. Duncan said yesterday he would cap the size of the Ontario public service at 68,645 employees.

**THAILAND** Two Canadians were killed and three injured late Monday when their van crashed on the way to catch a flight out of Thailand. Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon has said around 1,000 Canadians are affected by upheaval in Thailand. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Special teams set up to spot patients at risk of having cardiac or respiratory arrests in U.S. hospitals do not save lives and may not be a good use of resources, researchers said yesterday. **REUTERS**

# World



## Replacing Clinton with a Clinton?

New York Gov. David Paterson has famous names to choose from in picking a replacement for Senator Hillary Clinton, including a Kennedy, a Cuomo and even another Clinton – as in the former president of the United States. Speculation over Bill Clinton, left, while intriguing, is largely dismissed as politically impractical. The consensus front-runner is Andrew Cuomo, son of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo. The younger Cuomo is New York's attorney general. **REUTERS**

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# U.S. looks to ease tensions

## Pakistan must act decisively: Indian foreign minister

**U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice flew to New Delhi yesterday hoping to ease tension between India and Pakistan that has surged over the Mumbai attacks and put U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the region at risk.**

The three-day rampage by 10 Islamist gunmen in India's financial capital last week stoked longstanding Indian suspicions that Pakistan is unwilling,

or unable, to stop militants on its soil from attacking India.

Rice cut short a European tour to go to India to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is under election-year pressure to craft a muscular response to opposition criticism that his ruling Congress party is weak on security.

On Monday, India renewed a longstanding demand for custody of about 20 fugitives it believes are

hiding in Pakistan.

Officials said the list includes Dawood Ibrahim, a Mumbai underworld boss blamed for 1993 bombings in Mumbai that killed 250, and Maulana Masood Azhar, a Pakistani Muslim cleric freed from jail in India in exchange for passengers on a hijacked jet.

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said military action was not being considered, but later warned a peace process be-

gun in 2004 was at risk if Pakistan did not act decisively.

His Pakistani counterpart offered a joint probe to find the militants responsible for the killing spree in Mumbai in which 183 people were killed.

"We don't want to do anything in haste. We don't want to do anything that fuels confrontation," Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said. **REUTERS**



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## Venezuela Opposing Chavez's plan for re-election



Opposition supporters hold a banner depicting national hero Simon Bolivar as they protest against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's proposal of constitutional change in Caracas yesterday. Chavez is gambling his future on a referendum to change the constitution so he can run for re-election. **REUTERS**

## Cholera toll up to 500 in Zimbabwe

**DISEASE** The death toll from Zimbabwe's worst recorded cholera epidemic has risen to nearly 500, the World Health Organisation said yesterday, in a sign of the rapidly deepening crisis.

The spread of cholera, normally a preventable and treatable disease, highlights the collapse in the once relatively prosperous African nation, where President Robert Mugabe and the opposition are squabbling over how to implement a power-sharing agreement. **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**VATICAN** Gay-rights groups and newspaper editorials yesterday condemned the Vatican for its decision to oppose a proposed UN resolution calling on governments worldwide to decriminalise homosexuality.

**HEALTH** There is no evidence that brand-name drugs given to treat heart and other cardiovascular conditions work any better than their cheaper generic counterparts, U.S. researchers said yesterday. **REUTERS**

## Croatia arrests Facebook activists

**CIVIL RIGHTS** Croatian police have detained and questioned web activists who are criticizing or ridiculing the government, media and the opposition say, accusing authorities of violating basic civil rights.

Media said yesterday police had detained organizers of a group on Facebook, the online social-net-

working site, which called an anti-government rally in several towns, including the capital Zagreb, for Friday. The group has more than 80,000 members.

"For the first time since the 1990s, Croatia is starting to enforce repression against its citizens who want to freely express their political stands," Na-

cional weekly said.

It said police had arrested a co-ordinator of the protests in the Adriatic city of Zadar. Business.hr news website said police had detained and questioned another activist in Zagreb, who had been posting protest posters on billboards in the capital. **REUTERS**


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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Blame the boomers

## LifeCycle

**Denise Rudnicki**

drudnicki@gmail.com

If youth is wasted on the young, then maybe love is, too. How else to explain yet another young woman selling her virginity on the web, or the blogs, books and TV shows promoting starter marriages?

I was talking to a young friend about relationships. I wondered how she meets guys.

Do she and her friends go to bars? "Oh no," she said. She and her friends might go to bars to meet a guy for a one-night fling,

but to find a meaningful relationship, they go online.

And what do they do, I asked, once they've found these meaningful relationships. Do they marry? "Lol," she said. Why would they marry? Why bother?

My generation is to blame for this laissez-faire attitude toward love and commitment.

We raised kids with an attention span of about three minutes, with a pick-and-choose attitude toward life, who select a career based on how much vacation time it gives them, who think happiness and success are a right, and who blame everyone but themselves when they are unhappy or fail.

We raised them to believe they are the centre of

the universe and that no one is better or smarter or more talented than they are. We let them think they need a \$500 prom dress when they graduate Grade 8, that their self-esteem depends on the latest technological gadget and that thong underwear is perfectly acceptable for preteens.

We thought we were protecting them when we taught them about good touch/bad touch, but we let them loose in an Internet world that treats sex like a vicious recreational pastime.

We taught them that it's OK to flee a marriage and bust up a family because one or the other of their parents isn't "happy."

Don't worry, we still love you, and here's a trip to Jamaica to prove it, but gotta

go 'cause I've been unhappy for years.

This generation views divorce as an acceptable social trend. Yet they've also been raised to believe if they're going to marry, they have to do it in the style and with the budget of royalty. We raised a generation of kids from broken homes, egomaniacs with poor self-esteem, consumers always on the prowl for new and improved products, people who go to clubs for casual sex, and who look to Internet sites to find a meaningful relationship that doesn't include marriage.

For this generation, maybe love is a dish best served cold.

Denise Rudnicki is a West Coast-based writer, communications executive, and journalism instructor at Royal Roads University.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

## Letters

### Put away your partisan ways and put the economy first

It is sickening to watch the eyes of opposition leaders in Ottawa aglow with arrogant greed for power at a time when the country can least afford it.

Come now, you elected officials — your performance of late is like a five-year-old having a temper tantrum. Please shed your diaper-stage performances, drop your partisanship and start tackling the task at hand: A deteriorating economy.

GERTIE POOL,  
ABBOTSFORD, B.C.

### Harper has made a believer out of some in Canada

Why can't we just give the Conservatives a chance to rule the country and see what happens? Why can't we just give Mr. Harper some trust, some time and the respect he deserves as a prime minister elected by the people?

It seems that Mr. Dion is still not accepting his defeat. If another election is unavoidable, I believe Mr. Harper will still be our prime minister.

YAN ZHOU,  
TORONTO, ONT

## Word on the street: Will you be giving money to a Christmas charity this year despite the global economic downturn?



### Jacques Boileau

age 45, Ottawa

A: I might even give a little more than I normally would.



### Amalia Savva

age 19, Ottawa

A: I don't spend very much on charity, but I don't think a recession is going to affect it very much.



### Theresa Cullen

age 48, Ottawa

A: I'll be giving to charity. Now is the time when people will need it the most.



### Metro Life Panel

Results from the Canadian Metro Life Panel (357 respondents):

Yes: 25%  
No: 7%  
Don't know: 68%

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: [ottawalatters@metronews.ca](mailto:ottawalatters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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8

**Nexen soars on takeover report**  
Shares in Nexen Inc. rose 9.3 per cent to \$23.88 yesterday after a report said that French oil major Total SA is poised to make a \$19.7-billion takeover offer for Canada's No. 4 oil explorer. **REUTERS**

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Oilsands threaten birds: Study

**A coalition of North American environmental groups says the development of Canada's oilsands region threatens to kill as many as 166 million birds over the next five decades and is calling for a moratorium on new projects in the region.**

The coalition, which includes the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), the Boreal Songbirds Initiative and the

Pembina Institute, say petroleum-extraction projects in the oil-rich region of northern Alberta are a threat to migratory birds and the boreal forest they rely on.

Their study concluded development of the oilsands, would be fatal for six million to 166 million birds because of habitat loss, shrinking wetlands, accumulation of toxins and other causes.

The solution, the groups

say, is to halt new projects in the oilsands and to clean up existing facilities. They are also calling for strengthened regulations to protect Canada's vast boreal, or northern, forest and for Alberta, whose government has backed oilsands developments, to prove the resource can be exploited without serious environmental harm.

"People need to take a hard look at whether this

can be mitigated or if tar sands development is just incompatible with conservation of bird habitat," said Susan Casey-Lefkowitz, an NRDC senior attorney.

The report estimates about half of North America's migratory birds nest in the boreal forest and between 22 million and 170 million birds breed in areas that could be subject to oilsands development.

**REUTERS**

## TSX sent on wild see-saw ride

The Toronto Stock Exchange's main index ended a see-saw session lower yesterday as news that insurer Manulife Financial will issue new stock offset-rallying energy shares after talk of a takeover of Nexen Inc.

The tug-of-war left the Toronto Stock Exchange up as much as 120 points and down as much as 186 points.

The S&P/TSX index finished down 78.40 points, or 0.93 per cent, at 8,327.81.

**REUTERS**

## Business in brief

**BAILOUT** James Arnett, a high-profile lawyer with corporate restructuring experience, was named special adviser on the auto sector by the governments of Canada and the province of Ontario. He will help evaluate the condition of the auto industry.

**AUTOS** U.S. automakers sharpened their pleas for a government lifeline yesterday as overhaul plans were submitted to Congress. Volvo, Toyota and Tata Motors all said they would cut costs and production as the economic crisis continued to ravage the industry.

**REUTERS**



# LET'S MAKE PARLIAMENT WORK!

## Coalition government now!

## December 4, noon, Parliament Hill

The Conservative government introduced an Economic and Fiscal statement last week that failed to provide economic relief for Canadians or any measures to get the economy back on track.

Canadians need a government that shows leadership.

Let's support a coalition government that will get us through this economic crisis.

Join us on Parliament Hill, December 4 at noon.

[www.MakeParliamentWork.ca](http://www.MakeParliamentWork.ca)



**Phelps named SI's sportsman of the year**

U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps was honoured as Sports Illustrated's sportsman of the year yesterday. Phelps broke Mark Spitz's record with eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics in August and became the winningest Olympian ever with his 14 career victories. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

9

# Sports



## Avery suspended for comment

The NHL suspended the Stars' Sean Avery before last night's game in Calgary due to lewd comments made regarding his former girlfriend, actress Elisha Cuthbert, and her current boyfriend, Flames defenceman Dion Phaneuf. "I just want to comment on how it's become like a common thing in the NHL for guys to fall in love with my sloppy seconds," Avery said yesterday. The suspension is reportedly indefinite, pending a hearing with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SPORTS@METRONews.ca

### Sports in brief

**NFL** The New York Giants suspended wide receiver Plaxico Burress four games and placed him on the reserve/non-football injury list yesterday, officially ending his season. On Monday, Burress surrendered to authorities and was arraigned on a pair of weapons



Plaxico Burress

charges stemming from an accidental shooting Friday night. The wide receiver accidentally shot himself in the right thigh and spent time at a hospital.

**CFL** The B.C. Lions have given permission to Edmonton to interview defensive co-ordinator Mike Benevides for the vacant Eskimos head-coaching job. Benevides also is on the short list of candidates for the vacant position as Toronto Argonauts head coach. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Habs hang on, beat Atlanta

### NHL ROUNDUP

Canadiens 5 Thrashers 4

**The Montreal Canadiens managed to blow a three-goal lead in 59 seconds, but recovered to defeat the visiting Atlanta Thrashers 5-4 last night.**

Andrei Kostitsyn scored the go-ahead goal and Matt D'Agostini registered his first career tally, while Tomas Plekanec, Andrei Markov and Robert Lang also scored for the Habs, who won their second straight and third in four. The Thrashers scored three goals in a franchise record 59-second span in the third to erase a 3-0 deficit.

Thrashers coach John Anderson placed Ilya Kovalchuk on a checking line

with Chris Thorburn and Marty Reasoner for the entire game, and they combined to produce the goal that tied it momentarily in the third.

**FLYERS 4, LIGHTNING 3 (OT)** Mike Richards' power-play blast 2:05 into overtime sent Philadelphia over Tampa Bay, 4-3, at the Wachovia Center.

With Ryan Malone off for interference, Kimmo Timonen held the puck in the left circle and left a perfect no-look backhand pass for Richards, who blasted the game-winner high and inside the right post.

**PANTHERS 5, CAPITALS 3** Ville Peltonen, Radek Dvorak and Gregory Campbell each had a goal and an assist, leading the Florida



Montreal's Alex Tanguay, left, collides with the Thrashers' Jim Slater last night.

Panthers to a 5-3 win over Washington and handing the Capitals their first reg-

ulation home loss of the season. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

### Jr. camp roster coming today

**HOCKEY** The team portrait of the next Canadian junior hockey team starts coming into focus with the announcement of the selection camp roster today in Ottawa.

A pool of about 38 players was assembled by Hockey Canada head scout Al Murray. It's up to head coach Pat Quinn and his assistants to extract a gold-medal team from a five-day camp starting Dec. 11 in Ottawa. Canada is trying for a fifth consecutive gold medal at the world junior hockey championship, which would tie the country's record of five straight titles from 1992 to 1997.

The World Junior Hockey Championships run at the Civic Centre and Scotiabank Place from Boxing Day to Jan. 5. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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## Tough day all around for Jays

It hit the Blue Jays' front office about as hard as a Roy Halladay fastball to the jaw. As first reported at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca) after noon yesterday, Canada's MLB franchise laid off about 40 employees on what surviving members of the front office have labelled Black Tuesday.

"So much for happy holidays," a Blue Jays source lamented. "A big chunk of the sales staff has been laid off. It's a very, very, very sad day."

"A morbid day. We're seeing a lot of tears here (at the Rogers Centre). First, we came into the office to the news that our owner (Ted Rogers) just died. And then the layoffs. I guess this day will go down for the rest of time as Black Tuesday for the Jays."

A number of divisions within the Rogers corporation were affected by the downsizing. It's yet another lousy sign of the times. Devastating economy. Recession. Dismal exchange rate. Misery. Lost jobs.

The Jays are the first sports organization in

### YorkReport

**Marty York**

[marty.york@metronews.ca](mailto:marty.york@metronews.ca)

Canada to demonstrate their troubles with massive layoffs.

Sources who know about these sorts of things told me no Canadian sports franchise in history has laid off as many employees in one day as the Jays did yesterday.

And brace yourself because, sadly, other clubs surely will follow suit.

"It's an awful feeling," one of the Jays' laid-off salesmen told me.

"It's hard to believe that they can offer tens of millions of dollars to a pitcher like A.J. Burnett and yet get rid of all of us like this. Put all of us (laid-off employees) together and we wouldn't even make half of what Burnett would get for one year ... It's hard to take."

And, oh yes, the Jays also have cancelled their annu-

al Christmas party.

• It should be a happier day Sunday at the Rogers Centre, where the NFL will play its first regular-season game on Canadian turf.

The Buffalo Bills and Miami Dolphins (including ex-Argonauts dud Ricky Williams) will meet, though Rogers Centre sources anticipate empty seats.

In recent weeks, Rogers reduced prices for some of the seats for the Bills-Dolphins tilt.

• Like Calgary Stampeders kicker Sandro DeAngelis, Hamilton Tiger-Cats kicker Nick Setta has drawn considerable attention from NFL sources. Setta, however, is strongly leaning toward re-signing with the Ticats for considerably less money than he could make if he cracked an NFL roster.

"In all honesty, I like Hamilton," Setta said. "I honestly want to stay."

Setta led the CFL in the past season with a punting average of 47.4 yards.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DEPRESSION RESEARCH

Psychiatrists at the Ottawa Psychopharmacology Clinic are currently conducting a research study of an investigational medication treatment for depression. The purpose of the study is to further our knowledge about the treatment of depression. Treatment duration is approximately 8 weeks and includes a physical exam, blood tests and a psychiatric interview. A 52 week extension of continuing treatment will be offered to those completing the study and eligible for extension. All information provided will be treated in strictest confidence. To volunteer, you must be 18-70 of age, not currently in psychiatric treatment (unless you are being referred by your treating doctor), have no significant drug or alcohol problems and be in generally good physical health.



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If you have answered YES to five or more of these statements and have felt poorly for the past month, you may be suffering from depression. To be evaluated for this program please call, any time (24 hours), leave your name and phone number on our confidential voice mail:

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 Research programs are reviewed by an ethics review board.

	YES	NO
I am feeling sad and depressed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am having difficult sleeping.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am feeling low in energy and slowed down.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My appetite has changed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am experiencing feelings of guilt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have lost interest in work and pleasurable activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel hopeless about the future.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel tense and anxious.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am having difficulty making decisions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am having trouble concentrating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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# Automotive

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## Honda Fits like a glove

### Revised subcompact still class leader for fun

When you're a hit, life's easy. And Honda's Fit has definitely been a hit in Canada, continually selling out its yearly allotment with ease. Beyond just being a spacious and fuel-efficient hatchback, the Fit's fun-to-drive character is what keeps customers coming back for more.

Less than three years into Fit's stay in Canada, Honda has significantly revised it for 2009.

During the Canadian media launch in Montreal, Honda executives took great pains to ensure that journalists understood that the company was pitching the new Fit at young, single, urban, active, environmentally conscious customers. They even held the technical briefing in Canadian DJ Max Graham's über-hip loft in historic Vieux-Montreal. However, when pressed on who actually bought the original Fit, much like Honda's Element SUV, the spectrum was much broader — and older.

Fit version-2.0 gets the usual size inflation to make it more palatable for, ahem, larger passengers. Length and width are up by a huge 4,110 mm and 1,695 mm respectively to help create a more livable cabin and increased cargo capacity, while the wheelbase and track stretch 2,500 mm and 1,475 mm, making for a more confident ride on the highway.

Honda's styling department didn't have to work that hard at updating the Fit's sheetmetal. Throw a crease here, add a character line there... It's a very familiar shape, and can easily be mistaken for the older version.

The added length has thrown the Fit's cute styling proportions a bit out of whack up front. While the



#### 2009 Honda Fit

**Type:** Subcompact  
**Price:** \$14,980 - \$19,280  
**Engine:** I-4, SOHC, 1.5L  
**HP:** 117 @ 6,600 rpm

#### Highlights

- Fun to drive
- Affordable
- Fuel-efficient



Inside, the Fit's calling card is its flexibility thanks to the 60/40 split-folding Magic Seat.

new version is more angular and sharper than the egg-like original, there's a reason why you won't see many side-on photographs. For whatever reason — call it having to meet old Canadian bumper regulations, North American 'tastes', etc. — our Fit gets a more prominent proboscis that's none too flattering. European and Japanese-market Jazz' are much tidier.

The Fit's mechanicals stay very familiar, meaning an innovative floorpan that keeps the fuel tank under the front seats. Suspension remains MacPherson struts up front with a torsion-beam out back, but the geometry has been altered

to provide better handling.

The 1.5-litre 16-valve SOHC four-cylinder now gains i-VTEC, which increases horsepower to 117 at 6,600 rpm.

Transmissions remain five-speed units: a manual is standard on all trim levels, with the automatic options. However, the neat steering-wheel-mounted shift paddles packaged with the auto trans are gone for '09.

Fuel economy remains strong with the manual scoring 7.2/5.7 L/100 km city/highway. Strangely, for those looking for the ultimately frugal Honda, the automatic Fit actually takes

the cake with a 7.1/5.5 L/100 km rating.

Inside, the Fit's calling card is its flexibility thanks to the 60/40 split-folding Magic Seat, which now folds down flat in one motion thanks to new integrated rear headrests, and a class-leading 585-litres of cargo volume.

Unlike other recent Honda redesigns that have left us wanting, the Fit perfectly fills its duty of a fun-to-drive run-about.

CARGUIDE STAFF



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**Saturn Aura**

2007 North American Car of the Year (Hybrid shown)



**Saturn Vue**

2008 AJAC Award – Best New SUV/CUV  
\$35,000–\$60,000  
(Hybrid shown)



**Pontiac Vibe**

2009 AJAC Award – Best new small car over \$18,000



**Chevrolet Malibu**

2008 North American Car of the Year (Hybrid shown)



\*Awarded by North American International Auto shows. 1. Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid named 2008 Green Car of the Year by Green Car Journal editors. \*\*2008 Best New Small Car awarded to Saturn Astra. 2009 Best New Small Car over \$18,000 awarded to Pontiac Vibe. †Based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada Test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary.



Over U.S. Thanksgiving, U.S. airlines cut capacity 10 per cent from last year. But the upside seems to be that this prevent major snafus that see travellers stuck at airports, unable to find another flight or a hotel room. **REUTERS**

# Travel



## Vanishing point

Airports seem to have become black holes for business travellers' laptops: 12,000 laptops are lost at U.S. airports every week, and 70 per cent of those laptops — which good Samaritans and airport employees return to lost-and-found departments — are never re-claimed, according to the Ponemon Institute. **ITBUSINESS.CA**

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# A closeup of the Pinnacles Desert

Photo tour lets you see this magical Australian landscape properly

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for Metro Canada



**"Stop right where you are," said Mike Newton, his head cocked toward the sandy ground beneath our feet. Without saying another word, he fell to his knees and thrust his fingertips into a tiny ridge of sand branching out from a nearby plant.**

### If you go

- The sunset photography tour of the Pinnacles Desert is run by Turquoise Coast Enviro Tours and costs \$55 AUS per adult or \$30 per child (6-14 years). Morning tours are also available, starting at 8 a.m., while full day tours of other attractions are also available. Visit [thepinnacles.com.au](http://thepinnacles.com.au).
- Cervantes Lodge, a short dis-

tance from the beach at Thirsty Point in Cervantes, has double rooms with ocean views for \$110 per couple per night; [cervanteslodge.com.au](http://cervanteslodge.com.au).

- Virgin Blue operates daily flights to Perth from various airports within Australia. Visit [virginblue.com.au](http://virginblue.com.au) for bookings.

BY ANDY PHILLIPS/  
FOR METRO CANADA

He ran the edges of his fingers along the length of the ridge, as if trying to dig up whatever had caused them. "I think it must have gone," he said, as he stood up and brushed himself off. He pulled a small photo album out of his back pocket and flipped it open to a picture of a squat, many-legged tan-coloured bug: A sandgroper.

"They call us Western Australians sandgropers," he said with a chuckle. "I haven't got a clue why."

It was late afternoon in the middle of Nambung National Park, several hours drive north of Perth, among a natural attraction better known as the Pinnacles Desert. All around us were irregular-shaped rock pillars, the result of a geological process from the time when millions of kilometres of what is now called the Turquoise Coast would have been underwater.

Mike, our guide, had explained the process with a diagram drawn in the sand. The simple version was that they were pillars of marine limestone slowly being uncovered by shifting sand dunes, creating a forest of stone statues.

The stares of tourists trundling round the self-drive track in their hire cars were firmly fixed on these forms, as they spread across the undulating carpet of sand around us.

Mike had attempted to draw our attention elsewhere. He had pointed out emu tracks which wandered between the rock columns, and locusts cam-



Pinnacles bathe in sunset in the Pinnacles Desert, Nambung National Park, which is 250 kilometres north of Perth in Western Australia.

ouflaged against the sand.

Moments before spotting the ridges of a burrowing sandgroper, he had fixed his steely stare on a bronze-winged pigeon which had hopped across the sand track.

The fact that it hadn't flown away meant that something was wrong, he said, and followed it into a bush. He came out with it in his hands, and examined its wings. He replaced it deep in the bush to protect it from predators and vowed to return to it later.

Yet revealing the subtle detail of the park's flora and fauna was only part of Mike's tour. It was a sunset photography tour, designed to not only show us the highlights of the Pinnacles Desert but enable us to capture them on camera.

His van doubled as a mobile camera shop; he car-

ried spare batteries, universal chargers of several kind and even a gizmo which enabled him to download the contents of memory cards.

Mike's company, Turquoise Coast Enviro Tours, was the last one to offer tours from Cervantes, the small town 17 kilometres back along the road.

He'd convinced us to come up and spend the night in Cervantes rather than travel from Perth and back in a day, as so many of the other tours did. The bus ride from the city meant visitors often didn't get long enough to actually get out of their seat and explore the place, he said.

We had three hours among the pinnacles, enough time for several circuits of the track and several walks through the maze of stone pillars. Mike pointed out the pinnacles which

resembled different things: A turtle, a church (complete with spire) and a peculiar rock which looked like a kangaroo from two opposite points.

After we'd taken all the photos we wanted, we piled back into the van for the last time and finished the last loop of the track.

Almost as an afterthought, Mike said the path through the pinnacles had already been changed several times as limestone peaks have appeared in the middle of what was the road.

He pointed out several tips of rock protruding up in the middle of the track we were currently driving on. "There are a couple of places where if the sand blows away then vehicles won't be able to get through at all — so enjoy the ride while you can."

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travel **15**

# Rock museum a hit

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

[thetraveljunkie.ca](http://thetraveljunkie.ca)

Madonna's infamous Jean-Paul Gaultier gold bustier.

Rock enthusiasts, break out your air guitars and head to NYC. Opening in the Big Apple this week, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Annex, will take visitors "beyond the typical museum experience" to honour "the most defining moments in rock history."

Nestled among Soho's boutiques, the Annex is a 250,000 square foot building stocked with music memorabilia. It's not as comprehensive as her sister museum in Cleveland, Ohio, but Annex does have a wide selection of rock relics, including: an Elvis "peacock" jump suit, handwritten letters from Paul Simon to Art Garfunkel, Bruce Springsteen's 1957 yellow Chevy and John Lennon's piano heard in the 1970's hit "Imagine."

A visit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Annex starts in the theatre, a gallery designed to look like a concert venue. Seated among the bar stools, museum-goers watch a toe-tapping, 10-minute music montage. Iconic stars, everyone from Aretha Franklin to U2, sing their hearts out to a crowd of screaming virtual fans.

With surround sound, flashing stage lights and video projections, the theatre experience makes you feel like part of the concert.

In the next gallery, wireless audio devices, an iPod-like box complete with headphones, are handed out. Press play and the music automatically syncs up with the memorabilia you're looking at.

While standing in front of Johnny Cash's 1985 black leather boots, the audio guide blasts a fiery tune from the Man in Black. Moving towards Madonna's gold bustier, designed by Jean Paul Gaultier for her Blonde Ambition tour, the country music fades and transitions to the Material Girl's hit "Express Yourself."

Since the museum and the technology are new, there are still a few glitches to be worked out. If you move around the room too

quickly, the technology struggles to keep up. Scrambling songs from different artists, my audio guide played Bruce Springsteen when I was near the Grandmaster Flash exhibit and faded to Elvis Presley when I was near the Buddy Holly's acoustic guitar. Despite these tiny inconveniences (which engineers are working to fix), the technology is pretty impressive, giving a new, interactive dimension to traditional museum-going.

No matter your musical taste, New York's new Rock & Roll Hall of Fame is sure to have some unique piece of memorabilia that will awaken your rebellious inner rock star and take it on a nostalgic journey.

Visit [rockannex.com](http://rockannex.com) for more information.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of [thetraveljunkie.ca](http://thetraveljunkie.ca).

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Actor Will Smith, moviemaker Tyler Perry and singer/actress Queen Latifah have joined U.S. president elect Barack Obama on Essence magazine's coveted Most Influential African-Americans list. The quartet is joined by rapper Kanye West and hip-hop icons Wyclef Jean and will.i.am. **IMDB.COM**

# Entertainment

## Blanchett's star

Actress Cate Blanchett is to be honoured with the 2,376th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She will unveil her star in front of the Egyptian Theatre on Friday.

IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

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## From Broadway to Sunset Strip

Movie adaptations of hit plays sometimes struggle to jump those cultural divides

STEVE GOW  
for Metro Canada

**William Shakespeare has been jokingly called the most prolific screenwriter in Hollywood. At no time is that perhaps more befitting than right now.**

With upcoming movie adaptations of such plays as *Frost/Nixon* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Doubt*, it seems Hollywood is looking evermore toward the stage for the sake of the big screen.

"There's some great stuff out there in theatre," said filmmaker Darren Lynn Bousman who directed *Repo! The Genetic Opera* on stage before recently adapting it for the cinema. "Even in Los Angeles, these little black box theatres have incredible things that, in my mind, are better than a lot of movies out there."

Perhaps no one knows this better than Luke Brown. As associate artistic director of Halifax's

Neptune Theatre, he has just staged a successful run of *Frost/Nixon* and will be presenting *Doubt* in March.

"When we chose the show, we weren't even aware of the film," said Brown, admitting that cinematic counterparts aren't always advantageous from a marketing perspective: As they discovered staging *The Producers* last year.

"The film wasn't really well received and I think that may have hurt some people's view of going to see it (as a play)."

While musical-adaptations generally perform better on film, plays like *Frost/Nixon* continue to struggle jumping the cinematic synapse: *Mamma Mia!* earned an estimated \$143 million in multiplexes, but the Tony Award-winning play-turned-movie *History Boys* only wrangled \$2.7 million.

Conversely, more successful has been reworking film for theatre. With



Frank Langella, left, plays Richard Nixon while Michael Sheen plays journalist David Frost in the screen adaptation of the play *Frost/Nixon*, in theatres this month.

*Dirty Dancing*, *The Color Purple*, *Young Frankenstein* and even *Shrek* being adapted for the stage, the lights of Broadway could easily be mistaken for the billboards on Sunset Strip.

"If people are lying down \$50 for something, they want to lay down \$50 for something they're familiar with," said Brown about the trend. "Something that they haven't heard of, people may be a

little more hesitant to throw down money on."

Surprisingly, as a theatre person, Brown isn't insulted by this rejuvenated fad of turning films into theatre. In fact, he only has one deep regret and that's the stage-adaptation of cult zombie classic *Evil Dead*.

"I was devastated when I heard it was being done (for the stage)," said Brown. "I wanted to do it myself."

## Rowling returns with new book

**BOOKS** A new book by author J.K. Rowling, her unofficial farewell to the adventures of boy wizard Harry Potter which made her the world's wealthiest writer, goes on sale on tomorrow.

Proceeds from *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, expected to become an international bestseller even though the seven-book Potter series is over, will go to a charity for vulnerable children in Eastern Eu-

rope co-founded by Rowling.

*Beedle the Bard* is a collection of five fairy tales and is mentioned in the final Potter book *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* as having been left to the boy wizard's friend Hermione Granger by Albus Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts school.

Only one of the five stories — *The Tale of the Three Brothers* — was re-

counted in the Potter book, and the volume contains clues that were to prove crucial to Potter's final mission to destroy Lord Voldemort.

Indicating the interest the new book is likely to generate with Potter fans young and old, one of seven hand-written, illustrated copies of *Beedle the Bard* made by Rowling fetched \$4 million at auction a year ago.

REUTERS

## Swayze denies he's near death

**PEOPLE** Actor Patrick Swayze, who has pancreatic cancer, yesterday denied tabloid stories that he is near death.

Swayze, 56, said in a statement he was home with his family after finishing work on his new television series *The Beast*.

"... Many tabloids have been consistently reporting lies and false information about me and those close to me," Swayze said.

REUTERS

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**Lopez to host Miss America**

Mario Lopez will host the Miss America pageant, to be televised from Las Vegas on Jan. 24. **PEOPLE.COM**

entertainment 17

# Battlestar prequel Caprica good to go

## IntelVision



rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

**GEEK CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY**

**THIS YEAR:** It's been sort of on and maybe off so many times now that I've gotten tired of getting hopes up, but according to Variety, the Battlestar Galactica prequel Caprica has been given the green light by the Sci Fi Channel.

With the end in sight for Galactica — the last half of the fourth season begins in January and ends on March 20 — Sci Fi needs something to keep its basement-dwelling constituency pumped up, though they might have to subsist on Galactica's vapours until then.

"We want people to come to this who have never heard of Battlestar

Galactica," Dave Howe, Sci Fi president, told Variety. "I think, because (Battlestar's) backdrop was space and spaceships, there was a barrier to entry for some viewers. Caprica has none of that. It's an intense family drama set on an Earth-like planet, in the near future, speaking to a lot of the ethical dilemmas that we as a human race are going to have to face very shortly."

As everyone knows, prime among those "ethical dilemmas" is whether to sleep with your sexy humanoid robot, so it's all good in geekland, especially since the pilot for the show was completed months ago and will likely be leaked to file-sharing sites quicker than you can say, "Greedo shot first."

**STONEHENGE, THE PYRAMIDS, ACCORDING TO JIM:** You don't have to be ancient or huge to be a wonder — you only have to last well beyond even the most generous expectations of your appar-

ently invisible fans, at least according to TV critic Alan Sepinwall of New Jersey's Star-Ledger.

Sepinwall was writing on the occasion of this week's return of According To Jim to the airwaves for its eighth season, which he calls "an amazing feat, not just in the history of television, but possibly in the history of mankind itself."

Among the shows the Jim Belushi vehicle has outlasted on the small screen are The Mary Tyler Moore Show, Taxi, The Honey-mooners and I Love Lucy. If it survives another season, it will have matched The Cosby Show for longevity and produced more episodes than Seinfeld. With that thought, let's pause for a moment and heave a deep, soul-shuddering sob before continuing with our apparently meaningless lives.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

## Panda earns 16 Annie nominations

**AWARDS** DreamWorks Animation's Kung Fu Panda fought off stiff competition to earn 16 nominations — the most for a feature — for the International Animated Film Society's 36th Annual Annie Awards.

That includes a nomination for best animated feature, a category in which it is competing with Pixar Animation Studios' WALL-E — considered the front-runner for the Oscar — which earned seven nominations. Panda and WALL-E also earned one additional nomination each in the best video-game competition.

Both of these features are short-listed for this season's animated feature Oscar competition. **REUTERS**

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sports	406	417	27	net	UEFA Cup Soccer Manchester City vs. Paris Saint Germain FC.		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)	Hockey Central		
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
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	410	403	52	SCR	Cabby Unlimit	24/7			College Basketball Michigan State vs. North Carolina. (Live)			Score Tonight
	411	457	56	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	The Amazing Race 13		Amazing	Ed's Up	Word Travels	Globe Guides
	417	406	59	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Outtakes	Knuckles	Wrecked
	554	544	48	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Daughter-Devil
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House
	551	542	65	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj
	570	580	29	MM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Back In	Back In...Love	Revival	Where You At	Fabulous Life Of...	Party of Five
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Parking Wars	Parking Wars
	628	584	32	SPKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		The Ultimate Fighter (N)	Ult. Fighter
family	521	560	34	TLC	Jon & Kate Plus 8 Road		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8	Solved (HDTV)	Jon & Kate	
	145	761	35	TV5	Toute une histoire		Les Diabliesses (2007) Anna Mihalcea.		Blanche (SC)	Partir	Facteur	Journal TV5
	616	521	39	SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County		Billable Hours	G-Spot	Starter Wife	House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Berkeley	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Letters	Arts & Minds	The Achievers
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Cash Cab (N)	Destroyed	Monster Moves		Mayday "Ghost Plane"	Daily Planet
	575	583	43	CMT	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith
	601	562	45	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out		Real Housewives of NYC	Last 10
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	House Party	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Election *** (1999, Comedy) Matthew Broderick.			Cheers	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Million Dollar Listing	Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Battlestar Galactica		Ghost Hunters International (N)	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	Dance Life	Dance Life	MTV Live
cable variety	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Twilight"		Cities of the Underworld		Captain Cook: Obsession		NCIS "Kill Ari"	Crime Stories
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies (HDTV)		Le Pouvoir caché (HDTV)		Université	Paranormales	Affaires classées (HDTV)	C'est incroy
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May		Enigma "Hypnosis"	Hope Island
	602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny		She's Got the Look	Style by Jury
	269	350	70	APTN	Canadian Geographic		Singing Home the Bones		APT National News: Contact		Tribal Treks	Guides
	621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Paris Hilton's My New BFF		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno	TMZ (N)
	603	561	95	FN	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Top Chef	Dinner Imposs.

## critics'corner—

## Sophie

It's little Robbie's first birthday, and everyone's there to celebrate, including his father, Andre (Lyriq Bent), in this new episode. And since he's only 1 year old, it probably doesn't register on him that someone is stealing the spotlight. See, Rick (Sebastian Spence) is there with his new client, who turns out to be the hit of the party. Natalie Brown also stars in "Bursting Balloons." 8:30 PM on 8 CBC

**Christmas in Rockefeller Center**

If you live in the Big Apple, it's not really Christmastime until they light that big tree. If you don't, television's coverage of the event is still a nice way to jump-start your holiday spirit with live music and pretty holiday images. It's the sort of special you can have on while doing something else — like wrapping presents or addressing cards. Enjoy! 8 PM on 9 NBC





Scrubs gets a new network and a new chief of medicine — Courteney Cox Arquette. The NBC comedy is now on ABC, with Cox Arquette appearing in the Season 8 premiere on Jan. 6 as Dr. Maddox in the first of three episodes. **PEOPLE.COM**

## Celebrity Buzz

# Gossip set spawns another romance?

**RUMOURS** There's a new couple on the set of Gossip Girl — Ed Westwick and Jessica Szohr are reportedly dating, imdb.com reports.

Westwick was rumoured to be involved with actress Drew Barrymore, but he has now sent gossips into a spin by apparently stepping out with co-star Szohr.

The couple was spotted canoodling at an airport in Dallas, Tex., as they waited to catch a

flight to New York on Sunday.

"They were trying to be discreet by stealing kisses near the gate," a source

tells New York Post gossip column PageSix. The pair

boarded the plane and, according to the source, "They were kissing in the aisles, but once they sat, she read her script and he drank a Heineken."

A representative for both stars said, "We do not discuss our clients' personal life."

It wouldn't be the first time romance had blossomed on the set of the hit teen drama: Blake Lively and Penn Badgley are dating after meeting each other through the show.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Madonna, A-Rod house-hunting?

**PEOPLE** Madonna and Alex Rodriguez are quietly shopping for love nests on the Upper East Side and on the East End, sources told Page Six.

"Madonna personally came to look at one house a couple of months ago, and Alex has been looking recently," an insider said. "We're talking about private,

double-width mansions in the vicinity of \$30 million to \$60 million US."

The pop star and baseball player are also interested in scoring a house "with a garage that you can drive into for additional privacy — although those are rare and hard to come by," the source added. Another

source said they were also looking in the Hamptons, N.Y.

Madonna's rep didn't return a call or e-mail, but Rodriguez's reps denied the two were looking for real estate.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Destiny drama was hard, Beyoncé says

**PEOPLE** R&B singer Beyoncé Knowles struggled with depression for two years when her former group Destiny's Child went through a series of line-up changes, because everyone blamed her for the band's troubles, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"For a couple of years

when I was 19 I suffered depression," Knowles said.

Destiny's Child's original lineup consisted of Knowles, Kelly Rowland, and childhood friends LeToya Luckett and

LaTavia Roberson. But singers Michelle Williams and Farrah Franklin were hired to replace the reportedly disgruntled members and the new group went on to shoot the video its hit single Say My Name.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Lindsay, Sam still together

**RUMOURS** Lindsay Lohan has taken to her online blog to slam reports she is to split from girlfriend Samantha Ronson, imdb.com reports.

The pair, who have been dating since earlier this year, have been dogged with rumours of a breakup following a spat of arguments.

The couple was recently spotted arguing in New York, and Britain's The Sun newspaper reported last month they

had a spat outside a London nightclub, with Lohan left "in tears" after the incident.

But the actress is sick of the rumours, and is adamant she and Ronson are still together.

She writes on her MySpace blog, "Rumors ... Just to clear this up ... Because I have been getting a lot of e-mails asking me this one question. Samantha Ronson and Lindsay Lohan (me) are not breaking up," before ending the posting with a smiley face.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Brangelina can't cook

**PEOPLE** Actor Brad Pitt is ashamed of his poor cookery skills but insists his partner Angelina Jolie is no better, announcing the best meal she has prepared for him is "cereal," imdb.com reports.

The couple has six children together, but Pitt admits that neither of them are able to conjure up a meal for their

family because they just can't cook.

"I can rock a Sunday BBQ but that's as far as my culinary talents go," Pitt says.

When asked what Jolie's signature dish would be, Pitt replied, "Cereal."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Dunst gets restraining order

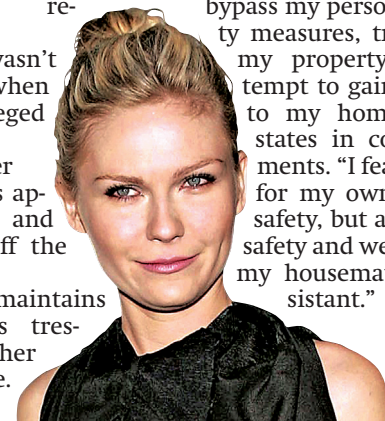
**PEOPLE** Actress Kirsten Dunst has been granted a restraining order against an intruder who was found on her estate last month, imdb.com reports.

Dunst wasn't at home when the alleged trespasser, Christopher Smith, was apprehended and escorted off the property.

Dunst maintains Smith has trespassed on her land before.

"Mr. Smith has repeatedly shown up uninvited at my place of residence in Los Angeles, going so far as to ignore police warnings, bypass my personal security measures, trespass on my property, and attempt to gain entry into my home," Dunst states in court documents. "I fear not only for my own personal safety, but also for the safety and well being of my housemate and assistant."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Fame made me stronger: Kate

**PEOPLE** Kate Bosworth struggled to handle her "brutal" Hollywood success as a youngster but is adamant the experience helped her to become a better person, imdb.com reports.

The actress landed her first big role at the age of 13 when she starred alongside Scarlett Johansson in 1998 film The Horse Whisperer, before really gaining the public's attention at 19 in hit surfer movie Blue Crush.

Bosworth has since gone on to star in a string of Hollywood films, including the coveted role of Lois Lane in blockbuster movie Superman Returns.

She says she believes her experience of fame as a child helped to make her "stronger."

"The obsession with the young Hollywood group happened when I was young and in Hollywood. It sort of coincided all at the same time," Bosworth says. "At the time, when you're being dissected and judged it's pretty brutal, but in hindsight it's great and — it sounds clichéd — you do come out the other side better and stronger."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



# Gossip Girl star expecting No. 2

**FAMILY** Gossip Girl star Kelly Rutherford is expecting her second child, imdb.com reports. The 40-year-old and her entrepreneur husband, Daniel Giersch, are due to welcome the new baby in June, a rep confirmed to Usmagazine.com

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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